ANDROID AT WORK

150+ MUST-HAVE APPS FOR ANDROID PHONES and TABLETS

by Edward Jones

Android at Work: 150-Plus Must Have Apps for Android Phones and Tablets

Edward Jones

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INTRODUCTION

So, you've got an Android-based smartphone or tablet. As far as apps go, what do you put on your new device? With hundreds of thousands of apps out there and more appearing on a daily basis, how do you choose what's useful, as opposed to what may be a waste of your download time?

Here is the answer that you can trust. *Android at Work: 150-Plus Must-Have Apps for Android Phones and Tablets* is your guide to more than 150 of the top rated apps that you'll find useful for your Android phone or tablet. And this isn't just a list of names with little helpful information, like some guides out there that

we'd prefer not to mention. In this book, you'll find detailed write-ups for each app, with specifics as to what the app can (and cannot) do for you.

Best-selling technology author Edward Jones has taken the time to research and compile this extensive list of apps for your Android tablet, and over 95% of these apps are FREE. You'll find apps for the home office, for entertainment, for news, weather, and sports, for travel, for communicating with others, for social networking, for your health, for managing your finances, and more.

We've also taken the time to create each listing beginning with a clickable link back to the GooglePlay catalog. So as you read this book on your tablet, phone, or in a web browser, if any particular

app sounds like what you've been looking for, just tap the image or heading name. You'll be taken directly to the Google Play-Store page for the app, where you can click the button to install that app. (Active wi-fi connection required.) So, let *Android at Work: 150-Plus Must-Have Apps for Android Phones and Tablets* be your guide to the best apps for your new gadget!

TABLE OF CONTENTS, AT-A-GLANCE

We've divided this book into general sections categorizing the different apps listed within each section, and at the start of the book, you'll find a useful introduction to apps in general, and techniques on how you can install your apps, or troubleshoot when things aren't going as planned. These topics are listed in the table of contents that follows.

Apps 101: Finding, Installing, and Troubleshooting Apps

- What's an Android?
- Finding Apps
- Troubleshooting Apps

Entertainment

- Netflix
- IMDb Movies and TV
- Hulu Plus (by Hulu)

- YouTube by Google
- HBO Go
- Crackle
- OverDrive Media Console
- Pandora
- Rhapsody

News/Weather

- USA Today
- CNN
- NewsHog (by SoLoMob)
- ESPN Sports Center
- Accuweather
- Bloomberg
- iHeartRadio

Travel

- American Airlines

TripAdvisor CityGuides

HotelTonight

Kayak

CruiseFinder

SAS Survival Guide Lite

Currency Converter

Pocket Diner Tip Calculator

London Tube Map

Yellow Pages Local Search

Home/Office Productivity

Docs to Go Free Office Suite by DataWiz

Jorte Calendar and Organizer by Jorte, Inc.

Fliq Calendar by MediaSpace

Fliq Notes

Notepad by BanderLabs

Pocket by Read It Later, Inc.

Calculator Plus FREE by Digital Cherry, LLC

Communications

Yahoo Mail by Yahoo

Email by Google

Scanner Radio by Gordon Edwards

InoMail Free

Utilties

Sketchbook Express

Brightest Flashlight Free

Adobe Reader by Adobe Systems

iTranslate by Sonico Mobile

My Alarm Clock Free (by Apalon)

ES File Explorer by ES Data

TextNow (by Enflick, Inc.)

Cozi Family Calendar and Lists by Cozi

Health and Fitness

WebMD for Android by WebMD

Fitness Home and Gym Workouts

Daily Ab Workout FREE

Daily Arm Workout FREE

Daily Butt Workout FREE

Daily Leg Workout FREE

Daily Cardio Workout FREE (all "Daily Workout" programs listed are by Daily Workout, LLC)

Calorie Counter (by MyFitnessPal)

Financial

Mint.com Personal Finance by Intuit

Checkbook

Expense Manager

Shopping, Cooking, and Dining

eBay mobile app by eBay

All recipes.com Dinners Spinner by All Recipes.com

Big Oven by BigOven

Epicurious Recipes by Epicurious.com

Grocery IQ by Coupons.com, Inc

Chef Tap by Mindframe Design

Social Networking

Facebook by Facebook

Friendcaster

Pinterest by Pinterest, Inc.

Twitter

Reference

OverDrive Media Console

TED

Holy Bible (by YouVersion)

Olive Tree Bible Reader

Bible

iQuran

MapQuest (by Mapuest, Inc)

CONCLUSION (and a favor to ask!)

Apps 101: Finding, Installing, and Troubleshooting Apps

If you are new to your Android tablet or smartphone, you've probably heard the term "app" tossed around at the office water cooler. Rest assured that you've come to the right place; this book will have you working with your Android phone or tablet in minimal time. In this first chapter, you'll learn how to add apps to your Android device. The successive sections of this book will tell you what apps you should consider, and exactly where to go (within the Google Play Store) to find these apps.

What's an Android?

(Fair warning: reading the following is NOT likely to aid in the use of your smartphone or tablet. This is strictly a "nice to know" topic!)

You may be aware of the fact that your smartphone or tablet uses the Android operating system. But in case this is all you know about Android, here's the trivia for you. All computers have operating systems, which are sets of software instructions that act as a traffic cop of sorts, performing basic functions behind the scenes: how the screen gets displayed, how sounds are played, what happens when you press a key, and so on. The operating system used by your tablet is named Android; other popular small computer operating systems include Microsoft Windows and Apple's iOS. Android was developed by Google, and it was developed to serve as an operating system for mobile devices, which explains why Android powers a large chunk of the worlds' smartphones. The cute little robot that you see often is the official symbol of the Android operating system. (Android's parentage also explains why so many Google products, such as the Chrome web browser, Google PlayStore, and your entire

contacts list under gMail are so seamlessly integrated into the interface of your Android device.).

Another interesting tidbit is that various versions of Android have been named after tasty treats, beginning with the very first release version. If you tap your ***Settings*** *icon and choose* ***System > About****, you'll see the version number of Android used by your device. Each version provides assorted new features and improvements. At the time of this writing, the versions are:*

Android 4.5	Lollipop
Android 4.4	KitKat
Android 4.1-4.3	Jelly Bean
Android 4.0	Ice Cream Sandwich
Android 3.X	Honeycomb
Android 2.3	Gingerbread
Android 2.2	FroYo (short for frozen yogurt)
Android 2.0-2.1	Éclair
Android 1.6	Donut

Android 1.5	Cupcake

The new version releases that are more recent include the following improvements:

Ginger-bread	Redesigned Home page; speed improvements; support for front-facing cameras.
Honey-comb	The first Android update geared specifically at tablets provided many tablet features, including a system bar, an action bar, redesigned keyboard for easier typing on larger screens, and a 2-pane email user interface.
Ice cream sandwich	Revised user interface, easier-to-create folders, improved camera app with time lag, panorama, and

	zoom while filming abilities, redesigned "People" app with social networking integration.
Jelly bean	Major user interface redesign, user-installable keyboard maps, improved voice search, multichannel audio, Bluetooth low energy and A/V profile support; improved game graphics, redesigned camera interface, numerous security improvements.
KitKat	Redesigned interface, wireless printing support, web views based on Chromium engine, settings access no longer uses multi-pane view.
Lollipop	The next major release

(under development as of this writing)	of the Android O/S is still under development as this book goes to electronic 'press.' It is rumored to have a unified chat system and greatly expanded music support.

If your device is running a version of Android older than 'Ice Cream Sandwich,' it may be worth your while to check at the website for the manufacturer of your device to see if there is an update available. The update process varies from model to model of device, but it may be as simple as choosing an 'update' option from your settings screen.

Finally, while Google developed the Android operating system, they did not build the software entirely from scratch. Android is based on Linux, a minicomputer operating system that traces its roots back decades, to research at Bell labs (which back then was part of the one and only phone company in the United States.) Because An-

droid is based on Linux, it is much more stable than that other popular small computer operating system (not naming names here, but it begins with a "W"...)

Apps for your Android device (or for any smartphone or tablet computer, for that matter) are actually computer programs, engineered to handle a specific task. As such, they must be ***installed*** on your Android device, which is a sophisticated computer in its own right. You install apps on your Android device by first purchasing the app (even if it's free) from the Apps section of the Google Play Store. You then install the app on your Android tablet by pressing the 'Install' button that appears once you purchase the app. After the app has been downloaded and installed on your Android tablet, the 'Install' button changes to dis-

play the word 'Open', and you can press the Open button to start the app. Once the app exists on your Android tablet, you can get to it at any time, by choosing Apps while at your Home screen, and locating and pressing on the icon for the particular app.

Finding Apps

As for how you go about finding apps, we've made that easy-- at least for the hundred-fifty plus apps that are listed in this book. Every app listed in this book begins with a title and an icon, both of which are linked to their respective order page on the Google Play Store web site. Assuming you are reading this book on your Android tablet, when you come across an app that you like, just tap the title or icon. You will be taken to the Google Play Store page for the app, and you can click the Install button in the center of the screen.

If you are looking for an app that's not highlighted in this book, that's also a relatively simple task: just search the Google PlayStore for the app in question. At the Home screen, swipe until your Apps screen comes into view, then locate and tap the Google PlayStore app. When the main screen of the Google PlayStore appears, tap anywhere within the Search box. The box will expand, and the keyboard will appear within the lower portion of the screen. Enter a search term to bring up one or more apps matching your search term, then tap the icon for the app that you are looking for.

Troubleshooting Apps

As mentioned earlier, apps are computer programs. And like all computer programs, they will at times fail to operate as promised, misbehave, or go absolutely haywire. When an app fails to operate as expected, your steps in resolving the issue will vary greatly depending on what type

of behavior the app exhibited in the first place. Some app failures fall into the 'hiccup' category, in which case it may be best to chalk it up to the "evil gods of operating systems" and to move on in life. Other failures can go beyond the level of major annoyance; as an example, a camera app for my Android tablet recently caused my tablet's sound to stop working in all applications, and the only fix was to perform a hard reboot and completely reset my Android tablet to factory settings. If an app misbehaves, crashes, or completely locks up your Android tablet, here are some procedures that you can try, ranging in ascending order from minor (meaning, 'let's hope this works') to major (meaning, 'lets hope you don't have to resort to this')-

1. ***Close and restart the app.*** Without subjecting you to a heavy dose of technobabble, let's just say that Android tablet-based computers tend to be more stable

than some small computer operating systems (Windows, not that anyone is pointing fingers) because each app runs in something called protected space. From a programming point of view, each app can play inside its own sandbox. This means that in theory, the abnormal operation of an app should not affect the entire operating system, nor should it have an effect on other apps. When an app misbehaves, the least troublesome step is to completely close the app, then restart the app. If this does not fix the problem you can move on to-

2. ***Perform a soft reset on your Android tablet.*** This happens naturally whenever you power down the machine, so just try turning it off. Wait 10 seconds, and power the Android tablet back on, then try the app again. If the soft reset fails to bring your machine back to normal operation, you can resort to-

3. ***Perform a hard reset.*** The steps for this process will vary, but with most Android tablets, and phones, you press and hold a power button until you see a "Shut down?" or a "power off?" prompt. Answer Yes' to this prompt. and your device will shut down. Wait 10 seconds, and power your device back up. You may notice a distinct difference in the appearance of the startup sequence this time, as the process will take longer, and at some point the Android logo – the small green robot—will appear on the screen, and will remain there for a short period of time (less than 2 minutes) while the machine restarts. Hopefully, this will fix the issue, because the most drastic step will also result in a definite loss of settings. But if you must resort to the most drastic step--

4. ***Reset your Android tablet to its default directory settings.*** Be warned that if use this last resort, you will need to

reset your username and passwords for all your e-mail account information that you've stored in the device, and you will have to pull all your apps back down from the Google Play Store (and reenter any user settings that may have been stored in these apps). You'll need to refer to your user manual for your device, as the exact steps needed vary wildly from device to device. If you can't find your user manual, perform a Google search on the term-

How to factory reset a <***device name***>

--where "device name" is the make and model of your Android phone or tablet. If your Android device still has operational issues after this type of reset, it is definitely time to get on the phone with the customer service department of the manufacturer of your device.

Entertainment

Netflix

The app may be free, but of course you'll need a Netflix subscription to actually watch any content. Given that fact, if you are a Netflix subscriber, you'll want the free Netflix app for your Android tablet. You can watch all of the same Netflix videos that you might see streamed to your laptop, and if your tablet supports stereo sound with Dolby noise reduction, you can enjoy that Dolby surround sound which comes across nicely with a good pair of head-phones plugged into the tablet. Log in with your NetFlix account, and you can get their usual unlimited shows and flicks on your phone or tablet, and can even pick up where

you left off on a show you'd started watching earlier on your TV set or other portable device. Of course, no movie-viewing app would be complete without having the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) app so you can get a good idea of what you're watching before you decide to watch it; the Internet Movie Database app is described next.

IMDb Movies and TV

If you are a movie fan or a fan of regular TV shows, or even if you aren't but don't want to be embarrassed by those trivia-type TV actor questions that arise when you and your friends are debating "who played in what role," you'll want IMDb on your Android device. The app gives you access to a database of two million titles and four million cast members. It is divided into movies and TV sections, you can see what U.S. movies are getting the highest box office ratings, and you can even watch trailers for hundreds of thousands of movies. The app doesn't have anything that you couldn't get from the IMDb web site running on your laptop for desktop computer, but the interface is intuitive, the app is free, and it's easy to carry around on your Android tablet.

Hulu Plus (by Hulu)

This is another case where the app is free, the service isn't, but it can be well worth the monthly subscription cost. With Hulu Plus, you get unlimited streaming of hundreds of current hit TV shows, as well as critically acclaimed movies. The current shows include ones like Gotham, How to Get Away with Murder, Modern Family, The Office, New Girl, and The Daily Show with John Stewart. Classics include past episodes of Lost, Family Guy, Battlestar Galactica, and more. Being multiplatform, you can watch your Hulu Plus supplied content on your Android tablet, Microsoft XBox 360, your Sony PlayStation 3, or your Internet connected TV or Blu-Ray player. At the time of this writing, unlimited streaming will

run you $7.99 per month, but you can sign up for a trial subscription for free.

YouTube by Google

If you're going to be watching YouTube videos (and these days, those who aren't doing so are in the tiny minority), you'll want to install Google's YouTube app on your android tablet (assuming it isn't there already- many Android devices are shipped with the YouTube app pre-installed). The app is free, and does what it claims to do- it lets you watch YouTube videos to your heart's content. The app pays attention to your viewing choices and provides personalized 'What to Watch' recommendations based on those choices, and if you are running the app on an Android phone and have Google's Chromecast, you can cast videos straight from your phone to Chromecast and other connected TV devices and game consoles. You can find music quickly by playing albums or artists

directly from the Search box, and you can search using text or voice (on Android devices equipped with voice recognition). The app earns a four-star rating, although some users do report occasional freezing issues.

HBO Go

HBO Go is the "take it with you" entertainment app provided for subscribers of the popular HBO premium TV channel. If you want to catch your most loved shows such as True Blood®, Game of Thrones®, Boardwalk Empire®, Girls, Veep, Curb Your Enthusiasm®, Entourage®, The Sopranos®, Sex and the City®, The Wire® and more (and you have an active cable TV subscription that includes HBO), this app lets you stream your favorite HBO shows and many HBO movies on your Android tablet. You can build a customized 'watchlist,' and catch up on your favorite HBO shows when you have time.

Reviewers report two common issues with HBO Go, one minor and one not-so-minor. The major issue (which may have

been fixed by the time of this writing) was that Time Warner Cable did NOT appear to be on the supported provider list. The minor annoyance is that apparently, the HBO Go app keeps the wi-fi component of an Android device powered on at all times, resulting in a much faster-than-normal battery drain.

Crackle

Crackle is an outstanding source of FREE (that's correct, as in 'no subscriber or pay-per-view fees involved) movies and TV shows. With the Crackle app installed on your Android tablet or phone, you get immediate access to thousands of full-length Hollywood movies and TV shows. At the time this was written, the lineup on Crackle included movies like Pineapple Express, Big Daddy, Joe Dirt, Mr. Deeds, Alien Hunter, The Deep, Panic Room, S.W.A.T., and hundreds of others. Also in the Crackle lineup are dozens of TV shows like Seinfeld, The Prisoner, Marvel Comics' Iron Man animated series, All in the Family, and Chosen, just to name a few. Crackle is owned by Sony Entertainment, so a large portion of the content are movies and TV shows produced

by Sony's movie and television studios over the years.

Twenty new movies and TV episodes are added to the lineup each month, from genres that include action, anime, comedy, crime, horror, thrillers, and sci-fi. Crackle is truly free internet entertainment at its best, and unless you only purchased your Android tablet for reading, you should definitely have the Crackle app as one of your apps.

OverDrive Media Console

by OverDrive

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This app is the only app that is listed in two sections of this book, both here and in the "Reference" section, because it is not only a great reference tool, it's also a source of entertainment in most locales. In a nutshell, OverDrive Media Console lets you borrow digital content from your participating local library. And with most public libraries, that content includes entertainment such as movies and music.)

The Overdrive Media Console is an app used by the OverDrive service offered by public libraries to let members borrow e-books and other digital media. At the time of this writing, nearly 20,000 libraries throughout the United States use the OverDrive system; check with your local library to see if they are a participant. With OverDrive and your library card num-

ber, you can download thousands of books and other digital content such as music and movies. Your downloads are borrowed content, just like a traditional library book would be borrowed content; how long you get to keep the books checked out depends upon on your local public library.

Launch the app, and you will be asked for a city name or a zip code. Enter this information, and you'll see your city's public library by name. Click to select it, and you'll be asked to login using your library card number. Once you do this, you'll have access to thousands of e-books on an as available basis, depending on what your town's library has in stock within the system. Most libraries that use the OverDrive Media Console also allow library members to download music and videos. Like the library books, these are available for a set period of time, depending on the lending policies of your local library.

The OverDrive Media Console and the resources of your local library are a great way to obtain free books, movies, and music downloaded right to your Android device. If your library does not participate in the system, there are a few libraries that allow nonresidents to obtain a library card for an annual fee. At the time of this writing, these include the Fairfax County public library (see http//www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more information), and the library of the City of Philadelphia (see www.freelibrary.org for more information).

Pandora

Pandora Internet Radio lets you create a personalized radio station that's based on your favorite artists and your favorite songs. Pandora on an Android device offers the same capability as the popular online website, Pandora.com: the ability to create personalized radio stations based on your favorite artists and songs. If you are already a Pandora user, you can just log into Pandora on your Android tablet or phone and pull up your same stations that you've set up on your desktop or laptop PC or smartphone. The interface is a breeze to use, and you can view artist biographies. Pandora is an ad-supported service, so you will hear ads on your stations; however, you can opt to purchase the Pandora One subscription for $3.99 per month and get ad-free listen-

ing. A NOTE OF CAUTION: the Pandora app does let you buy digital content, which gets billed to the credit card that is linked to your Google Play account. If others share the use of your Android tablet, you'll probably want to set up parental controls to prevent unintentional spending.

Rhapsody

If you are a serious fan of music, you're going to fill up the usable storage space on a Android device fairly quickly. Rather than being disappointed when you are unable to store anything else because you've filled your phone or tablet's memory with music, why not subscribe to a streaming service like Rhapsody? The player app is free, and for the subscription service of $10.00 per month you can stream millions of songs to your Android tablet. Unlike an Internet radio service like Pandora, with Rhapsody you get to choose the music and the artists that you want to hear.

News/Weather

USA Today

From what multiple reviewers and this author say, USA Today's Android app is the kind of app that every newspaper app should be. The content is beautiful, optimized to take advantage of the larger screens on many newer phones and tablets. Unlike many newspaper apps, the content is all free on this one; there are no subscription services to pay whatsoever. While you're online, the app feeds you constant updates, making sure you've received the latest news and information, and you can pull down stories for offline reading when you don't have Internet access.

The organization is logical, the formatting is colorful, and from a user friend-

liness standpoint it's a cinch to navigate. There is a wonderfully-intuitive ‘swipe to the left or right’ action within the main content viewer that automatically jumps you between stories in the smaller Articles window on the left, or you can tap any story within the article window to bring up the corresponding story on the right. Stories are laced with top-notch photography and occasionally with vivid video narratives. As an online newspaper, this implementation absolutely rocks. Oh, and did we mention that it's free? As a newspaper, USA Today on your Android device deserves five stars.

CNN

The CNN app is another news app that serious news junkies will want to have on their Android phone or tablet. You get all of CNN's most up to date news content, and it comes in a liberal mix of both text and video, in a visually sharp package that's clearly designed to take advantage of a mobile device. The CNN app is also a highly interactive app; you can comment on each story by means of a Facebook login, and you can submit your own news content (including your pictures and your video) using CNN's iReport feature. This combination along with no subscription fees make this another great news app for the news junkies out there. And in the author's opinion (who is an admitted newsaholic), CNN

does a much better job in the International news area than does USA Today, which is very much a newspaper with an 'American' focus.

NewsHog (by SoLoMob)

NewsHog is a news aggregator, a program that pulls stories from news sources all over the web and puts them into one place where you can enjoy them. The app is the winner of the 2013 Google Play Player's Choice Awards, and for good reason. NewsHog is comprehensive, feature rich, and best of all, it's free. NewsHog gives you the most news on any topic or location of your choice, aggregated via Google News! NewsHog has many advanced features such as summarization, reader mode, text to speech, offline reading and translation that take the Google News experience to the next level.

The program gives you access to over a hundred preconfigured channels that include top news, business news, technology, sports, entertainment news, health, and (geeks of the world will love it,) lifehacker. You can create custom channels filtered by keywords or by a city name or by a zip code. You can save articles for offline reading at a later time, and you can even use the speech feature to have your Android device read the news to you while you're driving or otherwise on the go. NewsHog pulls its information from thousands of stories via Google News.

The Weather Channel

For the kind of in-depth weather reporting that you've come to rely on, you no longer need to turn to a cable or satellite TV channel. The Weather Channel is now no further than your Android phone or tablet. Get animated and customizable radar maps; immediate, 36-hour, and ten day forecasts; severe weather alerts for the US and Europe; the ability to save multiple locations; and a "find me" feature that provides you with pinpoint local weather, based on your GPS location. Even the local pollen counts, which are often omitted from other sources, can be found at The Weather Channel. One particularly nice feature is the ability to touch a 'Video' button and get the local forecast for your area on demand from one of the TV anchors for The Weather Channel.

ESPN Sports Center

When it comes time to talk sports around the office water cooler on a Monday morning, you'll never be stumped for a score again if you install the ESPN Sports Center app on your Android phone or tablet. You'll get scores, team standings, and news from hundreds of sports leagues worldwide. The variety of sports provided by ESPN Sports Center is just short of breathtaking- you'll find NFL and college football, NBA and college basketball, Major League Baseball, NHL Ice Hockey, and most other NCAA sports. If you are a big soccer fan, you'll find coverage of the Premier League, UEFA Champions League, the World Cup, and hundreds of additional soccer leagues and tournaments. NASCAR and Indy racing fans will find full coverage of motor sports,

and golf, tennis, rugby, and cricket fans are all covered as well. If you are looking to keep up with the sports scene, you'll find it all in the ESPN Sports Center app.

Accuweather

Accuweather provides both current weather and weather forecasts, updated every 15 minutes for locations worldwide. Current weather statistics include actual and "feels-like" temperatures ("feels-like" being the actual with wind and humidity factored in), humidity percentage, visibility, UV index, wind speeds and directions, and sunrise and sunset times. Forecasts are provided over the next 24 hours and the next 15 days. You can even pull up recorded video broadcasts from area television stations that subscribe to the Accuweather service, although a bug in the software randomly caused an "unable to play this video" dialog box to appear even while the TV broadcaster was speaking.

Bloomberg

If you delve deeply into the world of the financial, Bloomberg is an app you'll want to seriously consider. This one is a must-have app for all the stock traders and business news junkies out there. The app is completely free, and you get a combination of market data and business news along with a set of tools that let you track your portfolio, all in a single optimized interface for your Android tablet. There are tons of graphics and charts that let serious traders perform market analysis and keep up with market trends.

iHeartRadio

iHeartRadio is a free, all in one digital radio service that lets you find stations that already stream via the Internet, or create your own favorite all music custom stations based on your artists listening preferences. Over 1500 stations are available from around the country, spanning the range of pop, rock, R.&B., country, hip-hop, urban contemporary, college radio, and talk stations. You can browse by music genre, or go to a geographical location and then hit the 'scan' button to jump from station to station in that area.

The number one complaint about the app from reviewers is that it uses the Facebook user verification plug-in to allow saving of custom play lists or custom station

lists. So if you want to save anything in this program, you will need to have a Facebook account.

Travel

American Airlines

by American Airlines

This is a free app that is obviously tailored to the services provided by its maker, but if you are a regular American Airlines traveler, the app is worth having. Using the American Airlines app, you can view your flight details such as your gate information, your seat and your flight status and you can even access your own mobile boarding pass. You can also monitor where you are on a standby or upgrade list, and set parking reminders. If you're traveling with American Airlines, the app is worth the download.

TripAdvisor CityGuides

by TripAdvisor

The TripAdvisor CityGuides for the Android tablet are individual apps, each tailored to provide travel details for a different major city somewhere in the world. Each CityGuide is a personal travel guide that you can carry on your phone or tablet, with listings of dozens to hundreds of restaurants, hotels, and attractions. Thousands of travelers have been using the TripAdvisor website for years. With these apps, you can bring all the features of the popular website to your Android device. A big plus of the TripAdvisor series is that they work offline. So once you download the app for a particular city, additional details about that city are stored on your Android device.

One of the best features of Trip Advisor is its access to the user forums, with real world

information submitted by thousands of fellow travelers. On those occasions when you come up with a question that can't be answered in the app's database, post your question to one of the user forums, and you are likely to see an answer in less than a day.

TripAdvisor depends upon the opinions of travelers for its reviews. These reviews, written by thousands of travelers, provide honest feedback about the hotels, restaurants, and attractions in any given city. You can provide feedback about the places that you visit if you wish, by creating and updating your reviews when you are within range of a wi-fi signal. With the TripAdvisor CityGuides, you can say goodbye to the days of lugging around those dog-eared travel guide books when on vacation. Just load the CityGuide app appropriate to the cities you'll visit on your next vacation, and you'll have all the information you need stored in your Android tablet. **Click this link for the TripAdvisor CtyGuides page at the Google**

Play Store, then click the link representing the app for the city of your choosing.

The following cities are available as individual apps for the Android tablet in the TripAdvisor CityGuides series at the time of this writing:

- **Aarthus**
- **Amsterdam**
- **Atlanta**
- **Athens**
- **Austin**
- **Bangkok**
- **Barcelona**
- **Beijing**
- **Berlin**
- **Birmingham (UK)**
- **Bogota**
- **Boston**

- **Brasilia**
- **Budapest**
- **Buenos Aires**
- **Brussels**
- **Cape Town**
- **Chicago**
- **Copenhagen**
- **Curitaba**
- **Dubai**
- **Dublin**
- **Edinburgh**
- **Florence**
- **Fort Lauderdale**
- **Fortaleza**
- **Frankfurt**
- **Hawaii**
- **Helsinki**
- **Hong Kong**
- **Houston**
- **Istanbul**
- **Jakarta**
- **Kuala Lumpur**
- **Kyoto**

- **Las Vegas**
- **London**
- **Los Angeles**
- **Lisbon**
- **Madrid**
- **Manchester England**
- **Marrakesh**
- **Melbourne**
- **Mexico City**
- **Miami**
- **Milan**
- **Montreal**
- **Moscow**
- **Mumbai**
- **Nashville**
- **Natal**
- **New Delhi**
- **New Orleans**
- **New York City**
- **Orlando**
- **Oslo**
- **Panama City**
- **Paris**

- Philadelphia
- Playa del Carmen
- Portland
- Porto Allegro
- Prague
- Recife
- Rio De Janeiro
- Rome
- Salvador City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Sao Paulo
- Santiago
- Seattle
- Seoul
- Seville
- Shanghai
- Singapore
- Stockholm
- St. Petersburg
- Sydney
- Taipei

- **Tel Aviv**
- **Tokyo**
- **Toronto**
- **Vancouver**
- **Venice**
- **Vienna**
- **Washington, DC**

HotelTonight

by HotelTonight

How often have you found yourself on a trip and suddenly due to a change of plans, you need a great deal on a hotel room? Or perhaps you're partying with friends, or a drive home is taking longer than you thought and you're tired, or you're stuck late at work and just don't want to make the drive home. Whatever the reason, HotelTonight is a great app that offers last minute pricing on a variety of hotel rooms. The deals are based on the known fact that hotels often have unused rooms that they are willing to fill at the last minute for rock bottom prices. It's worth noting that's the app gets its updates on deals from its database daily at noon in whatever time zone you're searching in. So if you're looking for a great deal on a last minute

hotel room, you won't see that days' deals until after 12 noon.

Kayak

by Kayak Software Corporation

Kayak is a great multi purpose travel app for your Android tablet that lets you search for and discover flights, hotels, and car rentals, compare prices, and even get notification of cancellations and delays and gate information for your flights. You can also access maps of restaurants and ATMs in different locations where you are travelling. If you're in need of a last minute hotel room, or worried about a gate change or a flight delayed due to weather conditions, or need a car rental or you would just like to see a map of the airport where you're making a connection, you can now do all of this in one single app, Kayak. One caveat is that the app appears to only use Hertz as a car rental source, but otherwise, this is a great app for all things travel related.

CruiseFinder

by iCruise.com

If you are a fan of cruising, this is one app that you'll want to have on your Android device. Cruise Finder is a comprehensive cruise vacation planning app that gives you extensive information concerning over 200 ships sailing with 20 different cruise lines. You'll find thousands of itineraries complete with day by day descriptions and route maps, online pricing, availability, and booking, photos of ports, stateroom descriptions and deck plans, and even parking and map information for cruise line ports. A 'Hot Cruise Deals' section keeps you up to date with last minute pricing, and a 'My Favorites' section lets you save your favorite ships, itineraries, and cruise lines.

SAS Survival Guide Lite

by Trellisys.net

The SAS Survival Guide is the free version of the complete SAS Survival Guide. You'll find the app to be packed with basic survival information such as building fires, finding water, and navigating by stars; a survival checklist that helps you prepare for trips, and a quiz with more than 100 questions to test you to see if you have what it takes to survive if you were to find yourself isolated in the wilderness. Two caveats: first, the app is packed with a lot of valuable information, but reviewers report that the app is prone to crashing often. Secondly, if you were to depend on an Android device while traveling in the wilderness, you better also make sure that you have a battery backup for your device so that you can read the information that's stored within the app!

Currency Converter

by OANDA

When you're traveling outside your country, you'll probably want to add a currency converter to your travel tool kit, and this one by OANDA is one of many offered that will fit the bill. There's not a great deal to say about any currency converter; you simply want it to convert a value in your native currency to a foreign currency value, or vice versa, and this one does precisely that. There are a few nice added features; one is a pull down menu that lets you see conversion rates of a bank versus a kiosk versus an ATM. Another is the ability to set up a list of your common currency conversions on a 'Favorites' tab, so that you can refer to that list and not hunt through the rather exhaustive list of all currencies.

Pocket Diner Tip Calculator

by Talisman Mobile

If getting stuck with the short end of the stick when it comes to settling a restaurant bill for a group is an all too common occurrence, you need Pocket Diner Tip Calculator at your side when the waiter shows up with the check. You can calculate exactly what each member of your party owes, and the app is flexible enough to make allowances for variables such as shared food, or for the entire group absorbing the cost of one person because it is their 'special day'. You can adjust tip and tax rates as needed, and better still, the app will remind your party that such things as tips and taxes exist, a fact that seems to be conveniently forgotten all too easily by some individuals when the check comes around.

London Tube Map

by Bappz, Ltd.

In the description, this app is compared to "a Swiss Army knife for opening the can of worms that London can be," and that's an accurate description. With this app, you won't see any bells or whistles; it's just a free map of London's sprawling underground transit system. You can click on any part of the system to see a magnified view, which is admittedly a much better option than squinting through reading glasses trying to make out the map detail on those free maps that you get from London Metro.

Yellow Pages Local Search

by YellowPages, LLC

When your travel is more of the local variety, out and around your own hometown, the people behind the yellow pages have brought you a great little free app called Yellow Pages Local Search. You can search through over 20,000,000 businesses divided into major categories like restaurants, bars, hotels, doctors, dentists, mechanics, and more. You can check out the menus from over 300,000 restaurants, and you can find the gas stations that have the best gas prices in town. You can personalize your version of the app so that it is gives you fast access to nearby businesses, restaurants, and events in your town, and you can provide your own feedback by rating local businesses (you'll need to be online to enter ratings). If you live in an area of the country where gas prices can vary wildly from one neighborhood to an-

other, this app can be worth having just for the possible savings in gas prices alone.

Home/Office Productivity

Docs to Go Free Office Suite by DataWiz

View and edit MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint files on the go, with Docs to Go Free Office Suite. Included is support for doc, docx, xls, xlsx, ppt and pptx formats. For basic viewing and editing of your Microsoft Office documents, Documents to Go is a great app. With Documents to Go, you can create, view, and edit local files (those saved to your device memory or to your SD card), mark documents with a "star" for quick viewing later, review file properties with one click, delete files, and scroll pages from left to right and top to bottom with the swipe of your finger. You can even cre-

ate and save documents as PDF files. Note that the app does support in-app purchasing for some advanced features such as connecting to multiple cloud-based servers, desktop file synchronization, and opening password-protected files.

Jorte Calendar and Organizer

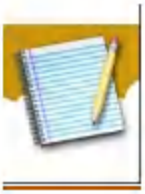
by Jorte, Inc.

When it comes to calendars, there's no shortage of free ones available for the Android tablet. What I like about Jorte Calendar is its full feature set; it's a great, easy-to-use calendar in a monthly or weekly view with a scheduler function and other useful features such as data import and export. The developer designed the app for single-handed operation. Calendars can be displayed in a monthly or weekly view, schedules are displayed in different colors according to their level of importance or whether they are completed, and your schedule and task list data can be imported from or exported to a CSV file. Jorte Calendar automatically picks up national holi-

days from the web, and it will sync events and tasks with Google calendar.

Fliq Calendar by MediaSpace

Another great calendar app for the Android tablet is the Fliq calendar. If you're a Microsoft fan when it comes to the desktop, the Fliq calendar may be your best choice because it can sync with Microsoft Outlook (although be warned that you do have to shell out $40 for an option if you want the Outlook sync capability, a price that many reviewers found to be a bit steep). It's highly customizable, with multiple views and calendar colors, and multi-day events shown as a banner in week and month views. One drawback is that you can't see events or appointments in month view, and it would be nice to have a yearly view. But overall it gets high marks as a good calendar app.



Fliq Notes

By Mark/Space Inc.

Fliq Notes is a notepad, plain and simple. You can enter and edit the text, and save your notes for future use. You can also export notes to the other products in the developer's same lineup, including Fliq Calendar and Fliq Tasks. The app has no drawing or sketching capability, but it is a great for taking notes. One caveat; you should always save your notes when you are done, as the application will not save them automatically.

Notepad by BanderLabs

There are other popular apps that are generally classified as notepads, and these include the popular Evernote and Scratch-pad apps, phenomenal tools in their own right. But these can also be gross overkill if all you want to do is take down a few notes and store them individually for later review. For that, there is BanderLabs' Notepad. This free app doesn't overwhelm you with features. It will let you jot down notes and also attach reminders to your notes, or share your notes with others via e-mail. A convenient search function and multiple sort options make it easy to find what you're looking for, and the display is highly customizable, with multiple color options.

Pocket by Read It Later, Inc.

How often do you run across something interesting on the web and don't have time to read it at the moment, but would love to read it later? You can easily do exactly that, by putting the article in your "pocket," so to speak. Pocket is a combination of an app and a web based service that you sign up for (and yes, both are free). Once you've signed up with the service and created your account, you can toss items in your digital pocket, in the form of textual articles from web pages, graphics, and even videos. Turn on your Android phone or tablet and launch the Pocket app, and those items that you place in your pocket are downloaded onto your device for reading on your own time schedule. This was a paid app that later went free in its develop-

ment, and here's hoping that remains that way.

Calculator Plus FREE by

Digital Cherry, LLC

This app earned a listing in a "best free apps" article written by USA Today, and for good reason. Calculator Plus consistently earns five stars from reviewers, thanks to its intuitive interface, its feature set, and its ease of use. It is a simple calculator with just the basics, but those basics likely make for 98% of what most people need in a calculator. The app presents a very basic, but totally functional desktop style calculator. You get the basic keys (+), (-), (*), (/), and (%), along with a backspace key that works intuitively in concert with the calculator's multiline display, allowing you to use the backspace key to "undo" past operations. This free app is ad supported, but the ads are unobtrusive and nearly impossible

to accidentally hit while using the calculator function keys.

Communications

Yahoo Mail by Yahoo

Yahoo Mail is the dedicated e-mail client for anyone with a Yahoo e-mail address. You can set up and check multiple Yahoo mail accounts, and the app has a rich text editor so that you can compose and send emails with full formatting, including the use of 'emoticons.' You can send and receive messages with attachments, and the app supports push notifications of e-mail, meaning that as long as the app is running, you will see or hear an incoming message alert each time a new message is received in your inbox.

Some reviewers have reported a display issue that is particular to Yahoo mail

and the Android platform. A number of users (but not all) have run into an inability to display messages higher than ten successive messages in a given mailbox. Other users have reported that the app appears to be unable to scroll its display window beyond a given point on the Android tablet's screen, so it may be a software/hardware incompatibility glitch. In any case, if you have this issue with the Yahoo Mail app, and you are comfortable with setting up a mail account using IMAP settings, you may want to opt for the flexibility of a universal mail client like SkipM@il. (SkipM@il is discussed on the following page.)

Email by Google

Email by Google is a full-featured e-mail client that supports multiple mailboxes on an Android device. If you are like many wired individuals, you probably have multiple mailboxes from different providers. Perhaps you have one address with Yahoo, another with Google's Gmail, the third for a domain associated with your job, and a fourth associated with a cell phone carrier. Chances are, all your accounts support universal Internet mail protocol standards such as POP or IMAP. If that's the case, you can consolidate all your messages from multiple accounts into one place, with Email by Google.

Email by Google has everything you'd expect in a full featured e-mail client; automatic e-mail push (meaning, incoming e-

mail messages appear in Email as they are received), access to synchronized messages when you are offline, and multiple folders for synchronization. From the main screen, all your e-mail accounts appear under the names that you create for them. Once you've added a new e-mail account, all of the folders associated with that account-- all mail, drafts, sent mail, and trash-- become accessible. Besides all the usual features found in an e-mail client (compose new messages, reply, forward, and delete), you can also move messages into folders, and mark the messages for later review when you are offline. Email by Google also lets you sort your mail in a number of different ways. You can sort your mail by date, by subjects, by sender, or by attachment type.

Email by Google is simple to install (and comes pre-installed on some Android devices such as Google's own Nexus line),

and it is simple to setup and use; The app supports POP, IMAP, and Microsoft Exchange (with WebDAV).

Scanner Radio by Gordon Edwards

Scanner Radio is a great app for scanner enthusiasts-- those who enjoy monitoring audio broadcasts from police, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety radio broadcasts. Scanner Radio turns your Android tablet into a scanner, with the ability to play live audio from more than 2900 police and fire scanners, weather radios, air traffic and railroad communications, and amateur ("ham") radio repeaters worldwide. You can view scanners there are located closest to you, sorted by distance, view the top 50 scanners with the most listeners, browse the directory of scanners by geographical location or by genre (such as all public safety, all aircraft, or all weather related), and enable alerts when lots of people are listening to any single scanner (a sure

sign that something is happening). And since this app pulls its scans from the Internet, you can listen to public safety scans from your hometown, even when you happen to live 3000 miles away.

InoMail Free

by InoGuru

InoMail Free is another email client for Android devices, and it does a good job of letting you easily access all of your emails in one place. The app supports the POP3 and IMAP protocols, it has a setup wizard that quickly configures mail with Gmail, Yahoo mail, Outlook.com, AOL Mail, and others, it sports a built in file explorer that makes it easy to add attachments, and it has a simple, clean, and intuitively easy interface. A rich text editor lets you format your e-mails in a variety of ways, and the app has a variety of color schemes used to display your mail.

This app is not only easy to setup, it's easy to use. The clean interface and the combined Inbox make this a superior al-

ternative to email management when compared to the email program that comes with many Android phones and tablets.

Utilties

Sketchbook Express

by Autodesk

From the same people who brought to you the popular AutoCAD professional CAD/CAM drawing program comes Sketchbook Express, a painting and drawing program specifically designed for small screen Android based devices. The app provides a set of sketching tools includes 3 layers, 6 preset brushes, and a flood fill tool. You can digitally capture ideas as napkin sketches, or produce artwork while on the go. The app offers multi-touch navigation with a 2500% zoom, you can import layers from the image gallery on your device or from your device's built-in camera, and you can

save images back to the gallery on your device.

Brightest Flashlight Free

by Goldenshores Technologies LLC

You may think that an app that does nothing more than light up every pixel of the screen of your Android tablet or other Android tablet based device is a fairly useless app- that is, until you drop something on the floor under the bed of a strange hotel room, or under the seat of the rental car, or in any of 100 other locations where you don't have a flashlight at hand. This app transforms your Android tablet into a flashlight, plain and simple. It sets the screen at maximum brightness, and automatically shuts down the app after 90 seconds, to avoid unnecessary battery drain.

Adobe Reader by Adobe Systems

If you spend a fair amount of time working with documents that are in the portable document format (pdf) pioneered by Adobe, you may as well opt for the Adobe Reader as an app on your Android tablet. While you can open a PDF file in many productivity apps using the default viewer of the particular app, the Adobe Reader offers more features in terms of working with PDF documents. You can make the print larger or smaller at the touch of the magnification button. You can navigate in more ways, viewing documents in a single page format, or as a continuous series of pages. And you can search through a searchable pdf for a phrase, or e-mail a pdf as an attachment, things that you cannot do with the native viewers built into many Android apps.

One feature that would have been nice to have would be a quick way to delete pdf documents from your Android device when you are done with them. That feature is sadly lacking from the Adobe Reader app for Android, so you will still need to manually go into your documents directory and delete unwanted files.

iTranslate by Sonico Mobile

iTranslate is a great free app that does language translation. If you're a student of languages or you do a lot of international travel, you'll definitely want to have this one on your Android device. The app does a magnificent job of combining voice recognition with voice output, so you can speak and see your language. The app will translate words, phrases, and entire sentences into any one of more than 60 languages. These words of one product reviewer do a great job of describing the functionality of the program:

"I am fluent in several languages and was pretty impressed with this app. I tested with a realistic tourist phrase which was fairly complex "I would like to visit your

best art museum. Can you give me a recommendation and how to get there."

I selected English from the left drop down list, typed in the phrase in English, and selected the second language from a drop down list on the right. I was impressed with the translation, the grammar was perfectly correct. Next to the text there was a button which pronounced the translation. The pronunciation was excellent and sounded like a native speaker. The intonations sounded "computer generated" but completely understandable. I tested Russian and Spanish." The reviewer goes on to state that "this was the first random sentence that came to mind, I did not try to find a phrase that would be translated well. I was quite impressed with the results."

iTranslate will even let you e-mail a translated message, share it via Twitter, or copy it into memory for use with another app. Supported languages (at the

time of this writing) include the following: Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Irish, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Malay, Maltese, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Welsh, and Yiddish.

My Alarm Clock Free (by Apalon)

My Alarm Clock Free is a straightforward, flexible alarm clock app that runs nicely in the background on your Android tablet, until it is time to do its job and wake you from sleep. There are a variety of built-in tunes that you can use as alarms, and there is also an option that lets you fall asleep to white noise, as well as support for multiple alarms. The alarm will sound even when the app isn't running, and a built-in dimming feature changes the screen brightness, to prevent unnecessary battery drain.

ES File Explorer by ES Data

For those that want more control of your device's file management that the typical Android device offers (which admittedly is not much), there are various file explorer apps, and ES File Explorer is one of the better ones out there. You can cut, copy, rename, delete, search through, and explore the properties of files that are stored on your Android phone or tablet. ES File Explorer also has a built-in FTP functions, so if you are a webmaster, you can get to the files stored on the web server that hosts your website. (If the previous sentence makes no sense to you whatsoever, don't worry; it's a bit of geek talk that in no way will impact the operation of your Android tablet.) One caveat is worth mentioning here: working with this, or with any file explorer, gives you the capability to seriously trash the op-

eration of your Android device. If you do not know what you are doing, this is no place to be experimenting with your files.

TextNow (by Enflick, Inc.)

TextNow is an app that gives you a dedicated phone number that you can then use exclusively for sending and receiving of text messages. There are no limits to the number of text messages that you can send or receive, and you can attach pictures to your text messages as attachments (and receive attachments containing pictures as well). Reviewers give the program generally good reviews, with one common small problem of a need to repeatedly hit the 'Refresh' button before new incoming text messages are displayed. And of course, to send and receive text messages, you will need an active wi-fi connection; if you're using a phone, you may incur additional data charges..

Cozi Family Calendar and Lists by Cozi

For the harried working professional parents with children who seem to be following in their footsteps with equally harried lives comes the Cozi Family Calander and Lists, a free calendar and activity tracker and scheduler for families. You can create a calendar for family activities so you can add in doctors' appointments, those practice schedules for soccer moms, grocery shopping lists and even individual chore lists that can be sent via e-mail to different family members. The entire family will be able to access the shared family calendar, you can add multiple to-do lists for different family members, and you can make notes of special family moments as they happen and add them to a family jour-

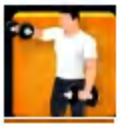
nal, along with pictures. (If you can absorb the cost of every family member having their own Android device, install the app on each one and use the family login, and it will be difficult for any family member to fall back on that tired excuse of “I forgot!”)

Health and Fitness

WebMD for Android by WebMD

In these recessionary times of spiraling health care costs and many underinsured due to circumstances often beyond one's control, it's great to have an app like WebMD. WebMD is the popular online medical reference library brought to app form for Android devices. Using the symptom checker feature, you can choose the body part that is troubling you, select your symptoms, and learn about potential conditions or issues. WebMD's exhaustive drugs and treatments database gives you information on drugs, supplements, and vitamins. A First Aid Essentials guide to medical emergencies is available offline, so whether you

have a wi-fi connection or not, you'll still be able to access the treatment essentials outlined in the First Aid Essentials guide.



Fitness Home and Gym Workouts

by VirtuaGym

VirtuaGym is a free fitness workout and weight loss app, with an emphasis on the fitness side of the equation. It provides full workouts for both home use and at the gym, and the ability to view animated demonstrations of each exercise, along with audio. You get full directions for each exercise, and tips from a virtual personal trainer ("Brad Fit"). Select a workout, and the app will show you how to perform each exercise correctly, count the reps, and even offer you an option of how much time you want between sets. Note that if you want to track your progress or move beyond the basic routines provided in the free version, you will need to upgrade to a paid version of the same program.

Daily Ab Workout FREE

Daily Arm Workout FREE

Daily Butt Workout FREE

Daily Leg Workout FREE

Daily Cardio Workout FREE (all "Daily Workout" programs listed are by Daily Workout, LLC)

If you're looking to get in shape (or

you're in shape but want a good exercise routine to help you stay there), the "Daily Workout...FREE" series of video exercise regimens are an excellent choice for Android device owners, according to reviewers of these apps. Each app in the series provides an effective daily workout routine for men and women that steps you through some of the best exercises you can do in the comfort of your own home. The exercise routines are designed and demonstrated by a certified personal trainer, with each app targeting a specific body area. And along with each video, each app also has a built-in timer allowing you suggested variations of 5 minutes, 7.5 minutes, or 10 minutes in length. If you download all five apps and run through them successively, you've got the makings of a great one-hour workout by the time you are done.

For each of these free apps, there's a paid version (each priced at a pretty reason-

able $.99 per app at the time of this writing) that offer additional video workouts of the same body areas to help you vary your routine, and the paid versions don't carry any advertising. But if you don't mind the pop-up ad prior to the start of the routine, you can expect a good basic workout with any of the "Daily Workout...FREE" apps.

Calorie Counter (by MyFitnessPal)

This is an easy-to-use tool that is designed (with some effort on your part) to shed those unwanted pounds and to keep the pounds off. You will need to register to use the app, but registration is an easy process. Once registered, the app calculates your calorie needs based upon weight, height, and gender, your lifestyle, and your weight loss goals. The food journal makes it surprisingly simple to keep track of what you are eating. Reviewers consistently give this one five stars.

Financial

Mint.com Personal Finance by Intuit

Mint.Com Personal Finance is an app from the folks at Intuit, makers of the popular TurboTax and Quicken financial programs, and its heritage shows. If you are looking for an app to keep up with your grocery and gas purchases, electric bills and the like, look at the next contender in this same category. Mint.com Personal Finance is designed to help you keep a handle on those larger things in life; your stocks and bonds, the 401K, your mortgage, car loans, credit cards, CDs. The program will give investment advice and even warn you when you've blown your monthly books budget

on Google Play (assuming you set one up inside the program first.)

Checkbook

by Digital Life Solutions

When you don't need all the features of a full fledged financial analysis or personal finance program, when all you want to do is balance your checkbook, there's Checkbook. This free app won't help you with money market rates nor will it make loan analysis evaluations for you, but it will do a first class job of helping you balance as many ledger accounts, checking or savings, as you wish. You can set up multiple accounts, and you can transfer amounts between accounts, and Checkbook will keep track of your running balances. You can also choose to base your account on any one of seven different currencies. You can group transactions into over 30 different trans-

action categories such as mortgage, rent, groceries, car payments, insurance, and so on, and you can create your own custom categories. You can also set up scheduled transactions, so that these are automatically deducted from your account. You'll find it much easier to avoid those nasty bank overdraft charges with Checkbook running on your Android device.

Expense Manager

by BiShiNews

And if you want a little more than an electronic checkbook but would prefer a low-hassle approach to budgeting, check out Expense Manager. This is a free app that lets you track your income and expenses either on a time basis (such as by week, month, or year), or on a category-based basis. The app also allows for negative expenses, for those times when you return a purchase. One general complaint by reviewers is that the documentation could stand improvement, but reviewers seemed to universally agree that once you figure out how to use the app, it does what is advertised and does it well.

Shopping, Cooking, and Dining

eBay mobile app by eBay

Fans of eBay can finally step away from the desktop, and take the auction with them anywhere that's in range of an internet connection, with the eBay mobile app for Android devices. You'll be able to manage all of your eBay browsing, bidding, buying, and selling right from the screen of your Android phone or tablet. As soon as you log into the app with your eBay account information, you'll get a quick summary of all your viewed, for sale, bid, won, sold, and other eBay items. From the same entry page, you can jump directly to your Messages Inbox, or to the eBay daily deals screen with a single touch.

The app also includes a handy alert feature, so the app can notify you when certain items of your auction are about to close, or when you have been outbid. Among the app features are the ability to search, watch, buy, list, and sell; share your favorite searches; check seller ratings and recent feedback regarding sellers; and get text alerts regarding the status of closing items or competition in those bidding wars. All payments on the app are processed using PayPal (understandably, since at the time of this writing, PayPal is a fully owned division of eBay).

All recipes.com Dinners Spinner by All Recipes.com

The dinner spinner from all recipes.com is truly a kitchen aficionado's dream. The app contains over 40,000 recipes submitted by website users all over the world, and includes reviews and photos from millions of home cooks. You can search for recipes by dish, by ingredient, or by cooking time, and if you are at a loss as to what to cook, you can fire up the app on your Android device, shake the device in your hand, and watch as random choices of ingredients fall into place (perhaps this is where they got the name, "dinner spinner"). You can even share your favorite recipes with friends by means of Facebook, twitter, or by e-mail.

Big Oven by BigOven

The serious cooking aficionado will quickly see why Big Oven was another app that earned a 'one of top ten' rating from a recent USA Today article. With over 350,000 recipes, (yes, you heard us correctly), Big Oven's mammoth recipe collection and its smooth, simple-to-decipher user interface make menu planning a thing of the past. Cross-compatibility on multiple devices enable you to compose a shopping list under Big Oven running on your Android tablet, and send it to your spouse who is running the same app on a Windows phone. You can share your favorite recipes on Facebook, and check out your friends' favorite Facebook recipes.

Epicurious Recipes by Epicurious.com

From the popular food web site at Epicurious.com comes the Epicurious Recipes and Shopping List app for the Android tablet. You can search a database of over 30,000 professionally created recipes from the pages of Bon Appétit, Gourmet, and Self, as well as from famous chefs and from cookbooks. You can save your favorite recipes to a favorites group, sort recipes by key word, browse by category, and share recipes by means of Facebook, Twitter, or by e-mail. The app also generates a shopping list if needed.

Grocery IQ by Coupons.com, Inc

You can bring a new level of organization to your grocery shopping and save money in the process with this grocery store application. The program includes a database of more than 130,000 items, and customization options include the ability to track your favorite items, maintain a shopping history, and the ability to search and use coupons. Input your specific store and watch the application sort your list based on aisles, saving valuable time. And you can share your grocery list with your spouse's iPhone or Android tablet phone that is running the same app. One annoyance reported by numerous reviewers is that the app uses the service of its developer (Coupons.com) to print coupons, and many reviewers reported that Coupons.com was not the easiest service to deal with. In the words of one

reviewer, “you have to jump through hoops to print a single coupon.”

Chef Tap by Mindframe Design

Chef Tap lets you import recipes from any website directly to your Android device, and you can do this without having to resort to copy and paste steps. The app also does a one way synchronization with your favorites stored in the Epicurious or AllRecipes.com apps if you have either app on the same device; you can import those favorite recipes into Chef Tap, and you can view them whether you are in range of a wi-fi connection or not. You can include pictures of meals, and there's a great split screen feature that list your preparation directions on one side and a list of the needed ingredients on the other. If you are a serious cook, this one's a keeper.

Social Networking

Facebook by Facebook

This is the Facebook app for the Android tablet, engineered by the programmers at Facebook. It's basically the same app that was created by Facebook for generic Android tablet-based tablets, with a few tweaks in the programming code to allow it to run under the heavily modified version of the Android tablet operating system used by the Android tablet.

If you are familiar with Facebook, you have an idea of what to expect, and you do get these basics from the Facebook app. The news feed is here, and a new button at the upper right of the news feed quickly shows you who among your Facebook friends is available to message. When

sending messages from within the app, you can see who is active, so you will have an idea as to when you can expect a reply. As with Facebook from the web, you can see what your friends are up to; share updates, photos, and videos; get notifications when others 'like' or comment on your posts; and text, chat, and carry on group conversations.

All that being said, the Facebook app gets a 'middle of the road' rating from reviewers, having had its fair share of teething problems. The most commonly experienced problem, according to numerous reviewers, is an inability to see more than roughly ten posts in your message wall or in the news feed. This problem has been reported to Facebook for about as long as the Facebook app has been in existence (which has been for some months now). If you install a Facebook app and you encounter the same type of behavior, you may want to uninstall the app and consider

other ways to get to Facebook, one of which is mentioned in the paragraphs that follow.

Friendcaster

This Facebook application seems to be a step ahead of the official app that was developed by Facebook, as Friendcaster offers features that you would typically find only by going to Facebook through a browser on a laptop or desktop. Friendcaster sports a look and feel that closely resembles Facebook's own app. Additionally, Friendcaster provides you with the ability to upload multiple photos and videos, and it offers automatic notifications of Facebook e-mails, friends' birthdays, and other events. Those who take their privacy seriously will appreciate the ability to handpick who sees status updates, while the more outgoing among us will love the ability to share posts from friends and family member's directly from the Android tablet.

Pinterest by Pinterest, Inc.

Pinterest, a new fast-growing star on the social media scene, is a tool that you can use to find inspiration and share that inspiration with others, and to collect and organize your ideas for projects. This app from Pinterest makes scrolling through all manner of beautiful images and clever ideas on your Android tablet simply irresistible. It's easy to log in, browse (scroll left to see categories, center for current activity, right for your own activity and link to your profile), scroll through and see pins, link to their source, see other people's pages, follow them, re-pin, add your own likes, and comment.

Twitter

by Twitter, Inc.

Twitter, (for those who have been living in a cave,) is an online social networking service and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets". Twitter has been described as "the SMS of the Internet." Unregistered users can read tweets, while registered users can post tweets and upload photos directly through this app for the Android tablet. This app is basically the same app that has been available for some time for Android tablet phones. Users report that it works well, is fairly stable (as with many social networking apps, some users report the need for an occasional restart of the app), and is a big improvement over going to Twitter via

the twitter.com web site in the Android tablet browser.

Reference

OverDrive Media Console

by OverDrive

The Overdrive Media Console is an app used by the OverDrive service offered by public libraries to let members borrow e-books and other digital media. At the time of this writing, nearly 20,000 libraries throughout the United States use the OverDrive system; check with your local library to see if they are a participant. With OverDrive and your library card number, you can download thousands of books and other digital content such as music and movies. Your downloads are borrowed content, just like a traditional library book would be borrowed content; how long you get to keep the books checked out depends upon on your local public library.

Launch the app, and you will be asked for a city name or a zip code. Enter this information, and you'll see your city's public library by name. Click to select it, and you'll be asked to login using your library card number. Once you do this, you'll have access to thousands of e-books on an as available basis, depending on what your town's library has in stock within the system. Most libraries that use the OverDrive Media Console also allow library members to download music and videos. Like the library books, these are available for a set period of time, depending on the lending policies of your local library.

The OverDrive Media Console and the resources of your local library are a great way to obtain free books, movies, and music downloaded right to your Android tablet. If your library does not participate in the system, there are a few libraries that allow nonresidents to obtain a library card for an annual fee. At the time of this writing, these include the Fairfax County public library (see http//

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library for more information), and the library of the City of Philadelphia (see www.freelibrary.org for more information).

TED

by TED Conferences, LLC

Initially, I had a hard time deciding what category to place TED into- Entertainment? Reference? Communications? I finally decided on the reference category, but it could be argued that there are elements of all in this outstanding app. TED is an acronym for Technology, Entertainment, and Design Conferences, and TED's motto- "ideas worth spreading"- does the best job of summing up what TED is about. This app lets you view both video and audio speeches from a number of the brightest scientists, educators, researchers, and thinkers from around the globe. You'll find short speeches worth listening to from business gurus, technology mavens, the creative set including philosophers, actors, and musicians, and medical and educational specialists, many with radi-

cal ideas, from all over. More than 1000 of these speeches are currently in the TED Conferences database, and more are added each week. The video and audio stream smoothly in the app, and you can download selected speeches for offline viewing or listening at a later time. If you enjoy exposure to the ideas of the world's great thinkers, you will absolutely enjoy this app.

Holy Bible (by YouVersion)

For the spiritual, YouVersion's Bible is one awesome Bible that you can carry with you everywhere. It offers hundreds of versions when you're online, provides downloadable versions that you can read when offline, lets you bookmark favored passages, and share passages with friends by means of e-mail, Facebook, or other social media. You can even listen to professionally narrated audio Bibles on most Android devices, although using this feature requires a wi-fi connection.

myHomework Student Planner

by Instin

myHomework is a useful free app that helps students and parents keep track of when homework and course work assignments are due. The app contains sections for homework assignments, class scheduling, and a calendar. If you upgrade to the paid version of the app, you gain the ability to sync data across other Internet devices, including iPad and iPhones.

Olive Tree Bible Reader

by Olive Tree Software

If you just want the ability to study the Holy Bible whenever and wherever you wish, whether you are online or not, consider the Olive Tree Bible Reader by Olive Tree Bible Software. This app gives you a portable, fully searchable King James Version of the Bible, with the ability to add annotations to verses and to copy scriptures into other apps such as email, or for composing text. The same publisher provides many other versions available for download, but these will cost you a moderate amount of roughly five dollars each (at the time of this writing). If you're content with the King James Version, it's yours at no cost in the free version of this app.

Bible

by Logos Bible Software

This is an excellent free Bible, but it is more than just a Bible. The Logos Bible app is more of a complete Bible study system for your Android tablet. You can access a library of resources and perform searches across these resources. If you are in ministry, you will likely find the Logos Bible app to be an invaluable tool for sermon preparation as well as for personal study.

iQuran

by Guided Ways Technologies

Students of the Quran will gain fast access to faith-based study with iQuran. You can read in English, or listen to the Quran in Arabic while following along with the English text translation on the screen. Note that there is a free and a paid version of this app. A full landscape mode is available in only the first 5 chapters of the Quran in the free version, and there is only one English translation (the Shakir translation). An upgrade to iQuran Pro (at a cost of roughly seven dollars at the time of this writing) eliminates these restrictions.

MapQuest (by Mapuest, Inc)

MapQuest has been helping people stay on the right road for nearly a half century, and the company was one of the first to bring mapping technology to the fledging Internet back in the early 1990s. MapQuest is your go-to app for live maps, GPS, voice navigation, and live traffic updates. Whether you're running a quick errand across town or taking a road trip across the country, MapQuest has the trusted directions and traffic info you need for stress-free navigation.

The MapQuest app for Android lets you access the extensive MapQuest database, displaying for your viewing a wide variety of detailed maps, with the ability to generate point to point direction based

maps on demand. To take advantage of turn-by-turn navigation, you'll need a device with continuous data access, such as a smartphone with a data plan, or a tablet with cellular capability.

In Closing…

I hope you've found this book to be useful, and if you liked this book, I think you mayenjoy another book I ' ve written, ***Android Tablet Tricks, Tricks, and Traps***.

Available exclusively through the Amazon Kindle Store for just $2.99, this book has been called the "user guide that should have been included with most Android tablets." ***Android Tablets Tips, Tricks, and Traps*** **covers all of the following and more:**

- **How to get around within the user interface—the screen of your tablet and all the objects it contains-- more efficiently**
- **How to make your Android tablet your own, customizing its display**

and operation for fastest and easiest use

- **How to find THOUSANDS of FREE (as in, 'zero dollars and zero cents') books**
- **How to use the e-mail, calendar, and contacts apps to stay connected with others**
- **How to use the built-in camera (in tablets equipped with cameras) to take photos and videos**
- **How to setup the security options to protect your account information**
- **How you can move your iTunes or other music libraries to your Android tablet**
- **How you can download YouTube videos to your Android tablet**
- **Suggested apps that no Android tablet owner should be without**

- **What to do when your Android tablet doesn't behave as it should**
- **You will learn all of the above and more, with *Android Tablet Tricks, Tricks, and Traps* as a part of your library. CLICK HERE to purchase and download this comprehensive book, and learn 100% of what you need to know to get the most out of your Android tablet!**

CONCLUSION (and a favor to ask!)

I truly hope that you enjoy using some of these apps as much as I have enjoyed writing about them. As an author, I'd love to ask a favor: if you have the time, please consider writing a short review of this book. Honest reviews help me to write better books. You can post a review on Amazon's site by going to the page for this book, and then clicking on your purchase history, and my sincere thanks for your time!

-Ed Jones

Join our mailing list...

We would be honored to add your name to our mailing list, where we can keep you informed of any book updates and of additional tips or topics about the Android tablet. Our mailing list will NEVER be sold

to others (because we hate spam as much as you probably do), and the only information that we will ask you to supply is a valid e-mail address. CLICK HERE to join our mailing list.

If you or anyone else in your family owns a Kindle Fire, stop by the author's website for all things Kindle, at ***www.thekindlewizard.com***. As a bonus for purchasing this book, you'll find continuing news and information on the 'Our Book Readers' page. You will be asked for a password, and the password is kindle4ever (all the letters are lower-case).

To visit the author's Amazon page for a complete list of books, click this link, or click the following image.

Android at Work: 150-Plus Must Have Apps for Android Devices by Edward Jones

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App count: 152 as of 12 Dec 2014.